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HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


FOR THE YEAR

1954

BY

FRANK COCKCROFT
M.A., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

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LITTLEHAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICES,
MANOR HOUSE,
LITTLEHAMPTON.

May, 1955.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1954.

There were 19 fewer deaths. This produced the lowest death rate figure since 1928. You will notice that births exceeded deaths by 88. In many South Coast areas the position is reversed.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases during the year was relatively small. Whooping Cough cases notified numbered most. I hope more and more parents will ask their doctors to immunise their babies against this disease. Reliable vaccines today are safe and effective. In most cases Whooping Cough is prevented and in others it is modified. The best time for a baby to be protected is between four and six months old. This safeguards the infant during the most dangerous period when Whooping Cough strikes hardest. At the present time a baby may be immunised against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus combined, or Whooping Cough and Diphtheria combined, as an alternative to immunisation against Whooping Cough alone. It is still very essential that the child population is continually protected against that deadly disease Diphtheria.

There were two paralytic cases of Poliomyelitis. Both have some degree of residual paralysis. Although there have been troubles with a poliomyelitis vaccine, I am convinced that it will not be long before there is a safe and effective one available in this country.

There are still 81 cesspools in the district and most of these are in a residential part in the Eastern area. I hope to see this state of affairs changed in the near future as cesspools are not desirable in modern built-up areas.

The Public expects clean and safe food and during the summer months Littlehampton has a large Public to satisfy. Regulations are necessary, but they alone cannot prevent germs entering food. If anyone saw and felt food poisoning germs running or jumping on their fingers or flying through the air when they coughed or sneezed, they would be a little alarmed. Unfortunately, in this respect the bacteria and viruses responsible for poisoning food are too small to be noticed. Only regular attention all the time to the elementary principles of cleanliness will keep our food completely safe.

You are all aware how much ill-health can result from bad housing. One tends to consider the physical side most but there is a great deal of mental upset caused through being inadequately housed. By the latter, I include living with relations or in lodgings. It is not the best way for a young married couple to start their married life in someone else's house, but for many there is still no alternative. The 1951 Census figures showed that 12.8% of households shared a dwelling. This compares unfavourably

with West Sussex (7.5%), but is a little better than for England and Wales as a whole (15.1%). The Census also showed that out of 4,107 there were 939 households entirely without a bath. There is evident need for improvement of existing dwellings especially when there are no public baths in the town.

I should like to thank Mr. McGarry, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for much information in this Report, including the Meteorological Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,,
Your obedient Servant,

FRANK COCKCROFT,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Littlehampton Urban District Council.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres), 2,915.

Resident Population (1954), estimated by Registrar General, 14,520.

Population (1951) Census, 13,948.

Rateable Value (1954), £154,230.

Sum represented by 1d. Rate, £620.

No. of inhabited houses end of 1954 according to Rate Book, 4,178.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

| Live Births | TOTAL | M. | F. | |
|------------------|-------|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| Legitimate ... | 238 | 127 | 111 | —Rate per 1,000 of estimated |
| Illegitimate ... | 11 | 3 | 8 | resident population 17·1. |
| | | | | Corrected Rate, 17·99. |
| Stillbirths ... | 6 | 2 | 4 | —Rate per 1,000 total (live |
| | | | | and still) births, 23·5. |
| Deaths ... | 161 | 79 | 82 | —Rate per 1,000 of estimated |
| | | | | resident population, 11·1. |
| | | | | Corrected Rate, 8·9. |

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth: None.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age, 7.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 28·1.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 29·4.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 36.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), none.

Comparative Statistics, 1954

| | England and Wales | West Sussex Urban | Rural | Littlehampton U.D. |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Birth Rate ... | 15·2 | 12·3 | 15·4 | 17·1 |
| Death Rate ... | 11·3 | 15·5 | 11·7 | 11·1 |
| Infantile Death Rate ... | 25·5 | 26 | 22 | 28·1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate ... | 0·16 | 0·17 | 0·08 | 0·3 |
| Cancer Death Rate ... | 2·03 | 2·8 | 2·3 | 2·5 |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ... | 0·69 | 0·0 | 0·38 | 0·0 |

Comparative Statistics, 1901—1954

| | 1901 | 1905 | 1910 | 1920 | 1925 | 1935 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Population | 7,363 | 8,165 | 8,800 | 8,593 | 9,020 | 10,178 | 14,130 | 14,360 | 14,520 |
| Birth Rate | 20.9 | 20.8 | 19.6 | 20.1 | 14.8 | 13.2 | 19.1 | 17.1 | 17.1 |
| Death Rate | 13.7 | 11.8 | 12.2 | 11.7 | 11.3 | 12.1 | 11.6 | 12.5 | 11.1 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate ... | 143 | 105 | 81 | 52 | 59 | 63 | 30 | 20 | 28 |
| No. Inhab- ited Houses | 1,504 | — | 1,806 | — | 1,785 | 3,308 | 3,950 | 4,036 | 4,178 |
| Average No. of persons per house | 4.9 | — | 4.6 | — | 5.1 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 |

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR E. W. CUFF MILLER.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

FRANK COCKCROFT, M.A., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

MR J. L. MCGARRY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for the Worthing Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Port Health District work is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Most of the public health matters with which the Council is concerned are dealt with in the Public Health Committee. To some extent the following Committees are concerned with public health:

Town Planning, Housing and Buildings Committee.

Water and Lighting Committee.

Highways and Works Committee.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

(a) Nursing.

4 General District Nurses, 2 Midwives, 2 Health Visitors and 1 School Nurse are employed in the area.

Lists showing names and addresses of midwives, health visitors and general nurses may be seen at County Libraries, Town Halls or Offices of local District Councils, and the Public Health Department, County Hall, Chichester. Information as to the situation of clinics and times of sessions may be obtained from the same sources, or from the local midwife, health visitors or general nurse.

(b) Maternity and Child Welfare.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and Ante-Natal Clinic are provided at Littlehampton Health Centre, Elm Grove Road.

The following figures have been provided by the County Medical Officer showing the attendances at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

| ANTE NATAL | | POST NATAL | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| No. of Women attending. | Total attendances. | No. of Women attending. | Total attendances. |
| 263 | 728 | 79 | 91 |

CHILD WELFARE

No. of Children
attending.
581

Total attendances.
5,209

A Birth Control Clinic is provided by the County Council at Shoreham Health Centre and a Family Planning Association operates one at the Health Centre at Bognor Regis.

(c) *School Clinics.*

School Clinics for minor ailments are held at Littlehampton Health Centre.

An Eye Clinic is held when required at the Health Centre.

Dental Clinics are held periodically at Littlehampton and Lyminster for the treatment of children with decayed teeth. Expectant and nursing mothers may also receive free treatment at the Dental Clinics. Dental anæsthetics are given by the Medical Officer when required.

Ear Clinics are held from time to time at the Chichester Health Centre, and appointments are made for children suffering from ear disease to attend.

Speech Therapy Clinics are held regularly at Chichester and Bognor Regis Health Centres and as required at the Littlehampton Health Centre.

Orthopædic Clinics are held at the Littlehampton Health Centre to which children are taken by appointment for treatment of crippling defects. The orthopædic nurse holds physiotherapy sessions at the Littlehampton Health Centre and also supervises children who have been prescribed exercises by the orthopædic surgeon.

(d) *Ambulance Service.*

Acting as agents for the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society operate the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service in the County. Calls for an ambulance are made through the doctor or nurse in attendance on the case, or through the Police or public in case of accidents or other emergencies.

(e) *Health Education.*

The County Council are responsible for this service, a great amount of which is done by the Health Visitors both in the homes and at the Clinics.

(f) *Mental Health.*

The County Council is responsible for a domiciliary mental welfare service, but institutional and out-patient treatment is provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

(g) Home Help Service.

This continued to be carried out very efficiently by the Women's Voluntary Service on behalf of the County Council.

Meals are provided and delivered to old people in their homes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, approximately 100 meals a week being delivered at a cost of 1/3d. per meal to the consumer.

Hospital and Specialists' Services

A comprehensive hospital and specialist service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Hospital accommodation of a private nature is available in certain circumstances subject to appropriate charges.

Mass Radiography Units are stationed at Portsmouth and Brighton where members of the public may have their chests X-rayed at regular intervals.

Chest Clinics are held at Worthing Hospital and at Aldingbourne House Sanatorium, both of which are available to the residents of Littlehampton.

Venereal Disease.

Residents may attend Clinics at Worthing Hospital, St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, or St. Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.

General Medical and Dental Services

Local arrangements for these services are organised through the National Health Service Executive Council for West Sussex, 175, Broyle Road, Chichester.

Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratories are available for the examination of specimens:

The Public Health Laboratory, Brighton.

The Worthing Hospital Laboratory.

The Public Analyst's Laboratory, Lewes.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

No Local Acts, Special Orders, General Adoptive Acts or Byelaws relating to the public health have come into force during 1954.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

It was not necessary to take any action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1947.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

There is an abundant supply of pure water obtained from deep well boring in the Downs at Burpham. The supply is constant and all the houses in the area are served direct. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Twelve samples of raw water and 17 samples of water after chlorination were sent for bacteriological examination. All the results were satisfactory. Three samples were sent for chemical analysis and proved satisfactory.

Nine houses are not supplied from the public mains.

Extensions of mains during the year:—

St. Mary's Close—360ft.

Tennyson Avenue—293ft.

Lineside Industrial Site—163ft.

Mill Lane Estate—1,155ft.

Sewers

112 yards of soil and 107 yards of surface water sewers have been added to the system in the past 12 months.

Sanitary Accommodation

All dwellinghouses in the district have proper water closets, with the exception of 19 which use pail closets and these are situated at Toddington on nursery land, which part of the district is not connected to the sewer. There are also 81 cesspools mainly in the Eastern area. The scheme for sewerage in the Eastern area which was in progress was temporarily suspended because of the war.

Public Conveniences

There are ten Public Conveniences, eight Ladies' and nine Gentlemen's, and they have been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year.

House Refuse

House refuse is collected weekly by the use of covered lorries, and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on the West side of the River Arun.

Rivers and Streams

Observations are kept on the river Arun, as it passes through the town, to prevent offal and waste materials being thrown into the river.

Swimming Baths

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools

There are eight Primary and Secondary schools in the district. All are provided with water closets and with the town water supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

During the year 8,443 inspections and visits have been made as follows:—

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Infectious diseases and contagious diseases (including Tuberculosis) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 111 |
| Nuisances and complaints | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 344 |
| Revisits to property under notice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 478 |
| Revisits where work was in progress | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 124 |
| Interviews with owners, agents or builders | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 348 |
| Drainage inspections, smoke and water tests to drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 256 |
| Butchers' shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 388 |
| Dairies and milkshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| Factories | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104 |
| Workplaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Re refuse receptacles and sanitary conveniences | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 262 |
| Re overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Ice cream premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 86 |
| Refreshment rooms | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 357 |
| Cinemas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Fried Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Food Preparation Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 312 |
| Re smoke observations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Re tents, vans, sheds and similar structures | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 145 |
| Re swine and fowls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Re water supply | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| No. of houses measured and recorded under the Housing Act, 1936, for overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Vermin | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |
| Refuse accumulations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 117 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 274 |
| No. of houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 361 |
| Re Shops Act, 1950 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 891 |
| No. of rooms disinfected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 143 |
| Rag Flock Act, 1951 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Visits re state of garden, dustbins and rats | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3070 |

Notices served

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Statutory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Informal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 269 |

Outstanding Notices

At the end of 1954, three informal notices had not been complied with, but in all cases instructions had been given by the owners to builders.

Complaints

During the year a total of 225 complaints were received and had reference to the following matters:—

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Rats and mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 98 |
| Vermin and insects | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Animals and swine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Noise | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Smells | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Accumulations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Flooding | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Smoking fire | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Leaking roof | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective boiler | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Choked drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Dampness | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Defective or unsatisfactory condition of toilets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Defective windows | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective chimney | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Overflowing and choked cesspools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Need to empty dustbins | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Dirty milk bottle | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Fouling of pavement | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Sanitary improvements and defects remedied during the year:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Roofs repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |
| Windows repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Floors relaid and repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Ceilings repaired and cleansed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Staircases repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Walls repaired and repointed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |
| Dampness remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Washing coppers provided or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Eaves or downspouting provided or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Doors provided or repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Chimney stacks repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Sanitary conveniences repaired or provided with cisterns | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| New dustbins and covers provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Drains relaid and repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Drains opened and cleansed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Inspection chambers, interceptors and traps provided to drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Overflowing cesspools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Sanitary sinks provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Sink or bath wastes repaired | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Urinals, etc.—cleansed, repaired, reconstructed or fitted with automatic flushing apparatus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Verminous rooms cleansed and bedding destroyed ... | 87 |
| Overcrowding remedied | 9 |
| Rooms cleansed | 46 |
| Accumulations of rubbish and manure removed ... | 23 |
| Soil pipes repaired | 1 |
| Caravans: insanitary sites and providing of W.C.'s, etc. | 9 |
| Yards paved or yard paving repaired | 2 |
| Yards cleansed | 3 |
| Food Premises: Drains cleansed and sanitary accommodation repaired, walls and ceilings repaired ... | 39 |
| Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—contraventions | 7 |
| Bakehouses: cleansing, repairs, etc. | 4 |
| Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924—contraventions | 6 |
| Factories: Sanitary accommodation improved or repaired, rooms repaired or cleansed | 27 |
| Ice Cream Premises: Cleansed, repaired, dirty and uncovered containers, etc. | 3 |
| Shops Act, 1934—contraventions | 25 |
| Smoke nuisances abated | 4 |
| Nuisance abated from the keeping of animals and swine | 2 |
| Dairies and milk shops cleansed or repaired and contraventions remedied | 4 |

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS.

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections. | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 29 | 42 | 4 | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 86 | 104 | 10 | — |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... | — | — | — | — |
| Total ... | 115 | 146 | 14 | — |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness ... | 5 | 5 | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences:— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient ... | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 3 | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences | 13 | 13 | — | — | — |
| Total | 27 | 27 | — | — | — |

There are two Outworkers in the district.

Shops Act, 1950

There are 328 shops in the district and during the year 891 visits have been paid, and the following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were found:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Dirty condition of sanitary conveniences | 8 |
| Need to provide sanitary accommodation | 1 |
| Need for additional dustbins | 4 |
| Defective condition of w.c.'s | 5 |
| Choked condition of drains | 3 |
| Need for cleansing of store room | 1 |
| Defective condition of roof | 1 |
| Dirty condition of yard | 1 |
| Need for cleansing of staff dining room | 1 |

Moveable Dwellings

There are five permanent sites for Moveable Dwellings in Littlehampton. Four are situated on the West side of the River Arun and are licensed under the Public Health Act for a total of 47 trailer caravans.

The largest site is situated at the North of the district and is licensed for 100 tents and trailers.

All sites are provided with town's water, and water-closets or Elsan-closets, and the following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were observed during the year:—

| | |
|--|---|
| Need to remove refuse from area | 2 |
| Caravans on unlicensed site | 5 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Need for cleansing of caravan | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Need for new drain for disposal of waste water | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Smoke Abatement

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| No. of observations made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| No. of notices served | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| No. of nuisances abated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |

Eradication of Bed-bugs

Three Non-Council houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs. These were disinfested by the Council by the use of D.D.T. insecticides.

No houses were disinfested by the use of Hydrogen Cyanide, nor has it been necessary to disinfest the furniture of prospective tenants to Council houses.

Section 89, Public Health Act, 1936

All inns, public houses and beer houses, cinemas and places of public entertainment have been inspected during the year. At several of the premises improvements were made to sanitary accommodation, kitchens and washing facilities. Both owners and tenants co-operated in the work.

Public Health Act, 1936—Sections 83, 84 and 85

During the year it was necessary to have 87 verminous rooms cleansed. In one case bedding was removed for destruction. No person was removed to a Cleansing Station.

Disinfection

During the year 143 rooms have been disinfected.

Rag Flock and Other Fillings Act, 1951

No premises have been found where Rag Flock is in use or on sale.

Mosquitoes

No complaints were received in respect of mosquitoes.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are two premises licensed under this Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Ninety-eight complaints were received and dealt with during the year. In each case visits were paid until the rats or mice were exterminated.

The only major infestation in the district is on land used for controlled tipping on the West Bank of the River Arun. This area receives constant attention. The sewers also receive systematic attention, and inspections are carried out on agricultural land.

A free service is given in respect of private dwelling houses, but charges are made in respect of business premises.

Extermination work is successfully accomplished by the use of Zinc Phosphide, Red Squill, Arsenious poison baits, Warfarin, "Horo Tubes", Antubaits and "Cyanide" fumigation and trapping.

The following tables show statistics in respect of works carried out during 1954.

Type of Property.

| | Local Authority | Dwelling Houses | Agricultural | All other (in- cluding Business & Industrial) | Total |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|---|-----------|
| I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ... | 22 | 4178 | 13 | 485 | 4698 |
| II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise ... | (a) 3 (b) 19 | 82 514 | 1 10 | 12 246 | 98 789 |
| III. Number of properties found to be infested by rats | — | — | — | — | — |
| Major Minor | 5 | 90 | 1 | 15 | 111 |
| IV. Number of properties found to be seriously infested by mice . | 1 | 6 | — | 2 | 9 |
| V. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority | 6 | 96 | 1 | 4 | 107 |
| VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:— | | | | | |
| (1) Treatment | — | 7 | 1 | 17 | 25 |
| (2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) | — | — | — | — | — |
| VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4 ... | — | — | — | — | — |

VIII. Number of "block" control schemes carried out—29.

SECTION D

HOUSING

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1954

Seventy-five new houses were erected during 1954 by private enterprise and 50 by the Local Authority.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

| | |
|---|------|
| (1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 429 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose . | 1379 |
| (2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | 361 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose . | 833 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 6 |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 149 |

2. Remedying of defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 105 |
|--|-----|

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

Statutory action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in four cases.

4. Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding:—

| | |
|---|------|
| (a) i No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | Nil |
| ii No. of families dwelling therein | Nil |
| iii No. of persons dwelling therein | Nil |
| (b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 7 |
| (c) i No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 9 |
| ii No. of persons concerned in such cases ... | 42 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | None |

Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Act, 1920

During the year one application was made for a certificate under the above Act, but was subsequently withdrawn.

Houses let in Lodgings

No action has been necessary under the Bye-laws in force in the district.

Slum Clearance

Instructions having been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to prepare a five-year slum clearance programme, it was decided to deal with the following houses:—

38 in Clearance Areas.

6 as Individual Unfit Houses.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

The number of food premises in the area is as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Fried Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Food preparation premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 62 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Butchers' Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Wet Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Restaurants and Cafes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 64 |
| Ice Cream Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 95 |

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act is as follows:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Fried Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Pies and Sausages | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Ice Cream Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 95 |

The number of Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 is eight.

Number of inspections of registered food premises:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Fried Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Ice Cream Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | 86 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104 |

The food premises registered for Pies and Sausages were also visited many times.

The principal means of educating food handlers has been by the personal visit of the Sanitary Inspector during his routine inspection.

Any meat found unfit in a butcher's shop is returned to the central meat depot at Worthing if practicable, otherwise all foods are buried in the Tip in lime.

It has not been necessary to carry out special examinations of any large consignment of food.

Ice Cream

There are three manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district and they all comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952.

Dairies and Milkshops

At the end of 1954 there were five cowkeepers, all of whom sold their milk wholesale.

There are seven retailers on the register, six resident in the district, and one who sells milk in the district from premises outside.

104 inspections were made of dairies during the year when the following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were observed:

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Insufficient cleansing of milk bottles and utensils | ... | 4 |
|---|-----|---|

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

The following licences were granted during 1954 under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

| | |
|--|---|
| Dealer's licence authorizing the use of the special designation Tuberculin-tested | 7 |
| Dealer's licence authorizing the use of the special designation Pasteurised | 4 |

Clean Milk Production

All milk sold in Littlehampton, with the exception of bottled Tuberculin-tested milk, is Pasteurised.

Steam for sterilizing churns, cans, measures, etc., is in use at all Dairies.

Eighty-one samples of designated milk (52 Pasteurised, 21 Tuberculin-tested, and eight Raw) have been sent for bacteriological examination. Four samples failed to satisfy the standard prescribed by the Regulations.

Forty-one samples of milk were taken during the year for biological examination. The presence of Tubercle bacilli was detected in two of these by the Laboratory. In each case the sample was taken prior to pasteurisation and the consumers did not receive any infected milk. All reports on biological examination of milk are sent to the responsible authorities.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations

There has been no slaughtering in this district since the Government Controlled Slaughtering ceased on March 14th, 1942.

During the year 388 visits were paid to butchers' shops and the following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were observed:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Need for cleansing of premises | 5 |
| Accumulation of refuse on premises | 1 |

The following weights of meat and offal were surrendered as unfit for food:—

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1,034 lbs. Beef. | 59 lbs. Sausages. |
| 40 lbs. Mutton. | 3 Chickens. |
| 284 lbs. Offal. | |

Food Preparation Premises

During the year 312 visits were paid to food preparation premises and the following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were observed:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Accumulation of refuse | 5 |
| Dirty condition of yard | 4 |
| Dirty condition of floors | 1 |
| Defective condition of roof | 1 |
| Defective condition of rainwater gutters | 1 |

All premises where food is prepared are periodically visited.
The following were surrendered as unfit for food:—

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 56 stone Fish. | 22 packets Cheese. |
| 335 tins Fruit. | 360 lbs. Rabbits. |
| 60 tins Meat. | 80 lbs. Apricots. |
| 90 tins Miscellaneous Foods. | 100 bunches Bananas. |
| 101 tins Vegetables. | 5 dozen Eggs. |
| 50 cartons Cheeses. | |

Restaurants and Cafes

There are at present 64 premises on the register and 357 inspections of these premises have been made.

The following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were observed:—

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Food open to contamination | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Dirty condition of yard | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Accumulation of refuse | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Kitchen in need of cleansing | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Need for additional dustbin | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Smoking in kitchen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Choked condition of drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Dirty condition of sanitary conveniences | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective w.c. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Defective condition of roof | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective rainwater gutters | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Ice Cream Premises

During the year there were 95 premises at which ice cream was prepared, stored or offered for sale, and in connection with these premises 86 inspections were made.

The following defective or unsatisfactory conditions were found, and in each case the necessary work was carried out:—

Premises in need of cleansing ... 3

Fifty-one samples of ice cream were taken and sent for bacteriological examination during the year, and the results are given as follows:—

| No. of samples. | Grade. | Average fat content. |
|-----------------|--------|----------------------|
| 33 | I | 11.98% |
| 17 | II | 12.79% |
| 1 | III | 14.8% |

The average fat content of all samples was 12.31%.

Bakehouses

There are seven bakehouses in the district, one of which is underground.

Forty-two inspections have been carried out, and the following unsatisfactory conditions were observed:—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Bakehouses in need of cleansing | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Dirty condition of floor | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |

Fried Fish Shops

There are four fried fish shops operating in the district at present.

Fifty-two visits have been paid to fried fish shops, and conditions were maintained in a satisfactory manner.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

| | Und. 1 year | 1—2 | 3—4 | 5—9 | 10—14 | 15—24 | 25 and over | Total |
|---------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | — | — | — | 13 |
| Whooping Cough .. | 4 | 17 | 19 | 35 | 3 | — | — | 80 |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis: | | | | | | | | |
| Paralytic ... | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Non-Paralytic | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles ... | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Diphtheria ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | Und. 5 years | 5—14 | 15—44 | 45—64 | 65 and over | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| Pneumonia ... | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Dysentery ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Smallpox ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ac. Encephalitis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Typhoid Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Paratyphoid Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal Infection ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Food Poisoning ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | — | — | — | — | — | — |

| | Total cases notified | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 13 | 3 | — |
| Whooping Cough ... | 80 | 1 | — |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis ... | 2 | 2 | — |
| Measles ... | 3 | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia ... | 2 | — | — |
| Erysipelas ... | 1 | 1 | — |
| Meningococcal Infection . | 1 | 1 | — |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council.

During the year 217 children completed a full course of primary immunisation, and 144 children received a third reinforcing dose.

The last case of Diphtheria to be notified in the district was in 1947.

The following table shows the decline in notifications of Diphtheria and deaths from the disease since the beginning of the century.

| | 1901-10 | 1911-20 | 1921-30 | 1931-40 | 1941-50 | 1951-54 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. cases notified | 182 | 211 | 89 | 73 | 17 | 0 |
| No. deaths ... | 31 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 0 |

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality

No person died from Tuberculosis who had not been notified during life.

| Age Periods | New cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 20 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 45 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 55 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 3 | 6 | 2 | — | 2 | 2 | — | — |

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172

No action has had to be taken by the Council under this section, which gives power to Sanitary Authorities to apply in special cases for a magistrate's order for the removal of Tuberculous persons to an Institution for isolation.

SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL STATISTICS

| Month | SUNSHINE (Hours) | | RAINFALL (Inches) | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | 1954 | Average for 40 years | 1954 | Average for 40 years |
| January ... | 87.7 | 66.3 | 1.53 | 2.96 |
| February ... | 65.9 | 82.5 | 2.54 | 2.13 |
| March ... | 125.9 | 138.6 | 3.24 | 1.85 |
| April ... | 207.9 | 178.1 | 0.33 | 1.84 |
| May ... | 195.5 | 225.4 | 1.57 | 1.85 |
| June ... | 176.9 | 237.6 | 2.61 | 1.56 |
| July ... | 165.7 | 218.4 | 4.51 | 2.14 |
| August ... | 171.6 | 210.3 | 2.91 | 2.23 |
| September ... | 171.7 | 163.2 | 2.15 | 2.32 |
| October ... | 95.1 | 123.4 | 2.11 | 2.93 |
| November ... | 66.6 | 74.5 | 6.23 | 3.40 |
| December ... | 52.5 | 59.0 | 2.32 | 2.89 |
| | <u>1583.0</u> | <u>1777.3</u> | <u>32.05</u> | <u>28.10</u> |

| Years. | SUNSHINE | | | RAINFALL | |
|--------|---------------|----------------|--|----------------|---|
| | No. of hours. | Daily Average. | No. of days on which sun was recorded. | No. of inches. | No. of days on which rain was recorded. |
| 1923 | 1831.5 | 5.02 | 209 | 30.10 | 185 |
| 1924 | 1789.5 | 4.80 | 307 | 31.10 | 153 |
| 1925 | 1915.2 | 5.25 | 326 | 33.30 | 159 |
| 1926 | 1681.8 | 4.61 | 296 | 28.70 | 175 |
| 1927 | 1691.4 | 4.63 | 312 | 33.90 | 190 |
| 1928 | 1945.5 | 5.32 | 311 | 31.50 | 179 |
| 1929 | 2068.1 | 5.67 | 316 | 30.04 | 152 |
| 1930 | 1808.1 | 4.95 | 319 | 31.43 | 183 |
| 1931 | 1633.4 | 4.48 | 300 | 24.42 | 216 |
| 1932 | 1558.5 | 4.29 | 315 | 27.09 | 194 |
| 1933 | 2062.8 | 5.65 | 318 | 23.08 | 155 |
| 1934 | 1758.5 | 4.82 | 297 | 28.09 | 166 |
| 1935 | 1771.8 | 4.85 | 311 | 36.01 | 182 |
| 1936 | 1679.9 | 4.59 | 304 | 28.63 | 182 |
| 1937 | 1691.6 | 4.63 | 304 | 33.51 | 176 |
| 1938 | 1809.7 | 4.96 | 311 | 24.51 | 183 |
| 1939 | 1828.9 | 5.01 | 203 | 34.89 | 211 |
| 1940 | 1876.8 | 5.12 | 309 | 29.46 | 164 |
| 1941 | 1641.3 | 4.49 | 296 | 25.06 | 160 |
| 1942 | 1647.9 | 4.51 | 294 | 27.03 | 137 |
| 1943 | 1818.0 | 4.97 | 294 | 25.21 | 175 |
| 1944 | 1665.1 | 4.54 | 296 | 23.54 | 169 |
| 1945 | 1672.2 | 4.58 | 301 | 28.72 | 173 |
| 1946 | 1692.8 | 4.63 | 297 | 32.11 | 211 |
| 1947 | 1812.9 | 4.96 | 287 | 26.74 | 175 |
| 1948 | 1873.5 | 5.09 | 299 | 26.22 | 137 |
| 1949 | 2041.3 | 5.59 | 319 | 23.83 | 91 |
| 1950 | 1738.4 | 4.76 | 303 | 27.79 | 166 |
| 1951 | 1819.2 | 4.98 | 294 | 38.22 | 190 |
| 1952 | 1864.8 | 5.09 | 314 | 29.02 | 166 |
| 1953 | 1813.1 | 4.96 | 300 | 22.55 | 135 |
| 1954 | 1583.0 | 4.33 | 292 | 32.05 | 177 |

